

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 CPR-02 RSR-01 RSC-01 SSO-00 /038 W

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, GB, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT NIXON- PRESIDENT BONGO TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION

FOR AF/ C

1. GABON INAUGURATING NEW INTELSAT STATION JULY 2.
GABONESE HAVE PLANNED INAUGURATION TO FEATURE
PRESIDENT BONGO TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENTS
NIXON, POMPIDOU, AND HOUPHOUET- BOIGNY. POMIDOU AND
HOUPHOUET ALREADY ON BOARD. FONMIN RAWIRE HAS
STRESSED TO ME HOWMUCH GABONESE WOULD APPRECIATE
PRESIDENT NIXON' S PARTICIPATION. EXACT TIME OF CALL
LEFT FREE. POMPIDOU - BONGO CONVERSATION WILL TAKE
PLACE 11:30 A. M. JULY 2 PARIS TIME. GABONESE HAVE
EXPRESSED HOPE NIXON- BONGO CALL COULD BE MADE
AROUND 11:30 A. M. WASHINGTON TIME (I. E. 4:30 P. M.
LIBREVILLE TIME).

2. AS INTELSAT IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE FOR
GABON AND VISIBLE SIGN OF PROGRESS AND MODERNIZATION
UNDER BONGO, CEREMONY ASSUMINGCONSIDERABLE LOCAL
IMPORTANCE.

3. TOPICS OF CONVERSATION WOULD BE STANDARD AND COULD
INCLUDE: (1) APPROPRIATE DISTILLATIONS OF STATEMENTS
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ON AFRICA IN PRESIDENT' S AND SECRETARY' S FOREIGN
POLICY REPORTS STRESSING IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO
RELATIONS WITH AFRICA; AND (2) COMMENT ON HOW
TECHNOLOGICAL LINKS SUCH AS INTEL SAT ARE REINFORCING
AND TIGHTENING NOT ONLY TRADITIONAL TIES BETWEEN
AFRICA AND US, BUT ALSO CURRENT CLOSE GABONESE/
AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. WE PRESUME
DEPT CAN PROVIDE INTERPRETER.

4. PRESIDENTIAL CONVERSATION WOULD BE DEFINITE PLUS
HERE. ALTHOUGH WE ALL FOR IDEA WE WOULD NOT, HOW-
EVER, WANT IDEA TO APPEAR AS ALTERNATIVE TO, OR TO
CONFUSE CONSIDERATION OF, OTHER TWO MORE IMPORTANT
PENDING BILATERAL ISSUES. IF REQUEST CONTAINED THIS
CABLE LIKELY TO JEOPARDIZE OTHERWISE PROMISING
DEVELOPMENTS ON OTHER SCORES, WOULD PREFER TO SKIP
THIS ONE.
MCKESSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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